



## Set C: Test 6

There are **6 questions** in this test.  
Give yourself **10 minutes** to read the text and answer the questions.

### **An extract from 'The Swiss Family Robinson', by Johann David Wyss**

*The narrator, William Robinson, and his family are passengers on a ship caught in a terrible storm. The narrator is on deck, his family shelter below.*

Forgetting the passengers, the ship's company crowded into the lifeboats, and the last who entered cut the davit ropes to cast each boat into the sea.

What was my horror when through the foam and spray I beheld the last remaining boat leave the ship, the last of the seamen spring into her and push off, regardless of my cries and entreaties that we might be allowed to share their slender chance of preserving their lives. My voice was drowned in the howling of the blast, and even had the crew wished it, the return of the boat was impossible, for the waves were mountain-high.

Casting my eyes despairingly around, I became gradually aware that our position was by no means hopeless, inasmuch as the stern of the ship containing our cabin was jammed between two high rocks, and was partly raised from among the breakers which dashed the fore-part to pieces. As the clouds of mist and rain drove past, I could make out, through rents in the vaporous curtain, a line of rocky coast, and, rugged as it was, my heart bounded towards it as a sign of help in the hour of need.

Yet the sense of our lonely and forsaken condition weighed heavily upon me as I returned to my family, constraining myself to say with a smile, "Courage, dear ones! Although our good ship will never sail more, she is so placed that our cabin will remain above water, and tomorrow, if the wind and waves abate, I see no reason why we should not be able to get ashore."

These few words had an immediate effect on the spirits of my children, for my family had the habit of trusting in my assurances. The boys at once regarded our problematical chance of escaping as a happy certainty, and began to enjoy the relief from the violent pitching and rolling of the vessel.

1. Circle the correct answer. This type of text is:

a  
biography

a piece  
of fiction

a piece of  
non-fiction

a formal  
letter

1 mark

2. Write the numbers 1 to 5 in the boxes to put these events from the text into the right order. The first one has been done for you.

The narrator reassures his family of survival.

The narrator sees the final sailors abandoning ship.

The narrator catches a glimpse of land.

The narrator realises that they are stuck on the rocks.

The narrator's family become more hopeful.

1 mark

3. Look at the second paragraph of the text. Why don't the sailors go back when the narrator calls out to them? Give **two** reasons.

1) .....

2) .....

2 marks

4. Describe how the narrator's feelings change from the second paragraph to the third paragraph.

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.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

2 marks

5. Look at the fourth paragraph of the text, beginning *Yet the sense...* Which phrase in this paragraph creates the impression that the narrator is in a terrible situation?

.....  
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1 mark

6. **Find and copy** a phrase in the final paragraph which tells you how the ship had been moving.

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1 mark

**END OF TEST**

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